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5 December 1967

**MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Walt W. Rostow
Special Assistant to the President**

SUBJECT : Request from Congressman Riegle

1. On 29 November we discussed over the telephone a request I had received from Mr. Carl Blake, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Donald W. Riegle, Jr., a freshman Republican representing the 7th District of Michigan (Flint and immediate environs). As you will recall, Blake wanted to see a copy of a report on the Vietnam situation which the Congressman understood I was preparing for the President. I told Blake that there was no such report. When he asked if I knew how the rumor of the report had gotten started I replied that its genesis probably lay in the fact that, along with a number of colleagues from other agencies, I was working on various sets of Vietnam statistics in a joint endeavor to refine and improve them. As I indicated in our 29 November phone conversation, if Blake asked further questions about this work I intended to refer him to you.

2. On 5 December I received the attached 30 November letter from Congressman Riegle, following up Blake's call. If you agree, I would like to call or write the Congressman and simply say that I have passed his request along to you and that, as the person in charge of the whole exercise, you are the one to whom his questions should be directed. I do not want to add to your burdens but believe it would be very unwise for me to engage in detailed, substantive discussions of Vietnam statistics with Congressman Riegle, since in any such discussion it would be virtually impossible to avoid remarks that could not be taken out of context and misinterpreted or misrepresented in an unfortunate fashion.

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3. I would appreciate your calling me and giving me your thoughts on this matter after you have had a chance to read Congressman Riegle's letter. I shall take no further action until I hear from you.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment
a/s

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